Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

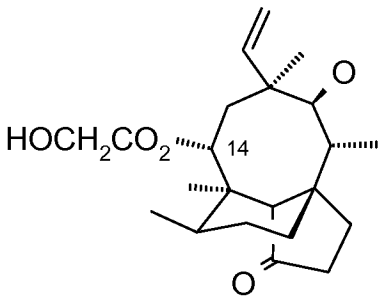
Claims 1- 33 (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) A method for preparing one or more crystallized pleuromutilins comprising the steps of:

a) culturing a pleuromutilins-producing microorganism in a liquid culture medium;
b) extracting pleuromutilins from the unfiltered culture medium with a water immiscible organic solvent which is 4-methyl-2-pentanone (MIBK);
c) concentrating the extracted pleuromutilins;
d) directly crystallizing the pleuromutilins from MIBK using a miscible non polar solvent which is heptane.

35. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the extracted pleuromutilins of step b or the concentrated pleuromutilins of step c are decolorized using activated carbon.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 34 for preparing pleuromutilin:



.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the pleuromutilins-producing microorganism is a *Clitopilus* species, an *Octojuga* species, a *Gerronema* species, or a *Psathyrella* species.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the extraction is conducted at about 10°C to about 50°C.

41. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the pH of the liquid culture medium prior to extraction is in the range pH 6 to 8.

42. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein a ratio of 4:1 to 1:4 equivalent volume of MIBK to unfiltered culture medium is used for the extraction.

43. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the pleuromutilins in step c are concentrated in MIBK to a concentration of 20% to 45% w/w.

44. (previously presented) The method according to claim 43 wherein the pleuromutilins in step c are concentrated in MIBK to a concentration of 35% to 40% w/w.

45. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the initial temperature of the MIBK containing solution used for recrystallisation in step d is from 45 °C to 60 °C, followed by cooling to from 25 °C to 35 °C.

46. (previously presented) The method according to claim 45 wherein the initial temperature is from 50 °C to 55 °C, followed by cooling to approximately 30 °C.

47. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein 1 to 1.5 volumes of heptane is added in step d.

48. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the crystallised pleuromutilins which are the product of step d are further purified by recrystallisation.

49. (previously presented) The method according to claim 48 wherein mutilin 14-acetate is selectively removed from the crystallised pleuromutilins by recrystallisation from ethyl acetate and heptane.

50. (previously presented) The method according to claim 49 wherein the concentration of pleuromutilins in ethyl acetate and heptane as recrystallization solvent is from 20% to 40% w/w.

51. (previously presented) The method according to claim 45 wherein the initial temperature is from 45 °C to 50 °C, followed by cooling to from 15 °C to 25 °C.

52. (previously presented) The method according to claim 51 wherein the MIBK and heptane mixture of step d is cooled to 0 °C to 5 °C after heptane addition.

53. (previously presented) The method according to claim 48 wherein mutilin 14-acetate is selectively removed from the crystallised pleuromutilins by recrystallisation from MIBK and heptane.

54. (previously presented) The method according to claim 53 wherein the concentration of pleuromutilins in MIBK and heptane as recrystallization solvent is from 20% to 45% w/w.

55. (canceled)